

#E1-669
RS

February 21, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



ATTN: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, we are submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

We believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement.

We are both retired and bought acreage in northern Medina County at 2600 CR 351 with the intention of building our retirement home in the absolutely beautiful area. The home building project (for which we have plans drawn) has been on hold for almost four years now due to the Vulcan's proposed project.

More people are moving into north central Medina County everyday because of the beautiful and pollution-free environment which stands a very good chance of being ruined and disappearing forever.

As property owners near the proposed Vulcan Materials quarry site and the Southwest Gulf Railroad route, we want to express our concerns. We are certainly not happy about the inconvenience and health hazards that this project presents. The fragile ecology of the southern escarpment of the Edward's Plateau has to be effected, not to mention all the historical culture of the area.

We have been very careful in the past twelve years of owning and working on our acreage not to introduce any chemical fertilizers or toxic pesticides that would jeopardize our clean water, air and soil. We have re-introduced native grasses and plants and can not see just how much more beautiful this ^{area} ~~are~~ can and should be kept.

If there are to be wooden trestles, pilings, cross ties and piers to be used on the rail line when traversing so much flood plain, I am sure they will be treated with creosote, or

even worse, pressure treated arsenic based chemicals. This is bound to introduce toxic chemicals into the soil and water shed.

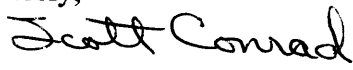
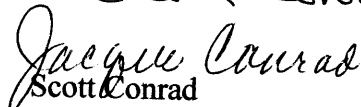
Blasting, used for the proposed quarry, around septic systems over the Aquifer Recharge area that has such a shallow rock covering has got to be a major concern.

Those of us that do not reside in the area raise livestock on our property. We depend on water wells to water our animals and cannot afford to have them contaminated or put out of service. In this area, man made ponds and surface reservoirs often will not store water and water wells are an absolute necessity.

The dust, noise and vibration associated with mining limestone should be considered a sin. This EIS study should take place at the proposed quarry site AND ALL the proposed rail routes, since everything is associated. It is highly probable that the manufacturing of cement is planned at this quarry in the future and this process along with the dust from mining and transporting the product is very detrimental to good health and should be considered. There is now a possible link between cement factories and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

We have listed just a few of our concerns and would like to have them considered in the formal scoping process.

Sincerely,



Scott Conrad
Jacque Conrad

CC: Henry Bonilla, U. S. Congressman
John Cornyn, U. S. Senator
Frank Madla, Texas Senator
Timoteo Garza, Texas Representative
Jim Barden, Judge, Medina County
Royce Hartman, Medina County Commissioner